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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,112	10/20/2003	Mark T. Stewart	P-8417.15	4236
27581	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARK MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			COHEN, LEE S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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20051227

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

***Response to Amendment***

The reply filed on November 30, 2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Applicant has inserted the limitation relating to the distal portion being more flexible into the claims without detailing support for it in the specification. As noted in paragraph [0138], the flexibility of the distal portion is discussed; however, the relative degree of flexibility with respect to the proximal portion is not mentioned. The unitary shaft argument in the response fails to support this limitation, particularly, since the different structural feature of applicant's distal end as shown in Figure 13A is not claimed. Accordingly, support for the limitation should be detailed. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lee S. Cohen whose telephone number is 571-272-4763. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lee S. Cohen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3739

LSC  
December 27, 2005